

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Mohaddes and Examiner Ryan for the courtesies they extended during the personal interview granted on November 23, 2010 and Examiner Mohaddes for the follow-up discussed granted on December 9, 2010. During the initial interview, the undersigned explained how and why the Turpin patent is not available as prior art, and the Examiners agreed. The parties also discussed the pending claims and how they specifically distinguish over the prior art. It is believed that the presently-submitted claims address all issues discussed and are patentably distinct over the cited art.

Specifically, the claims define an inlet channel and an outlet channel (generally evidenced by numerals 29 and 30 on FIG. 5 and numeral 21 and 26 on FIG. 7), one or more primary branched fluid delivery/removal channels (31 or 23, 24) and a network of interconnected fluid diffusion channels therebetween (illustrated by the network of lands between the branched channels).

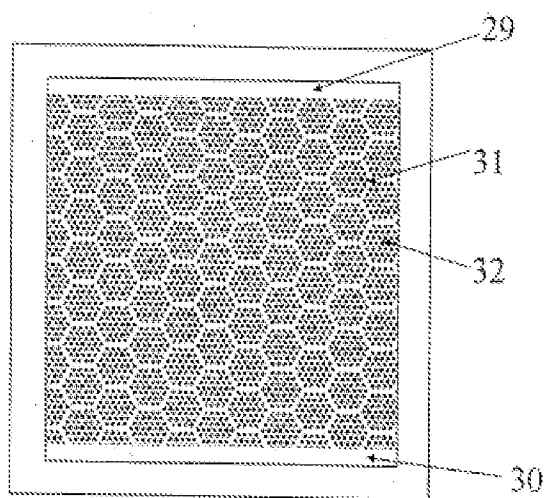


Fig. 5

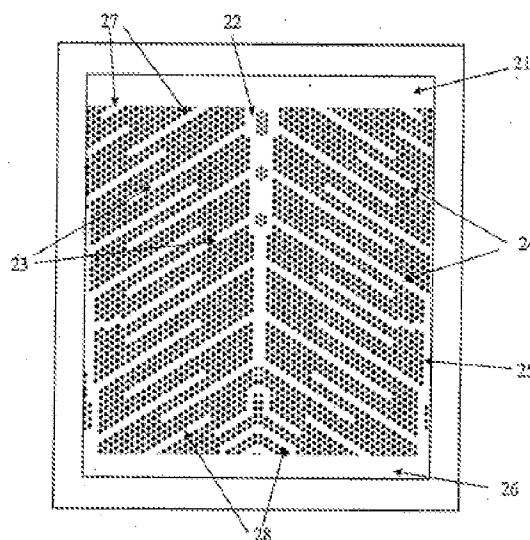


Fig. 7

As shown in the above figures reproduced from Applicants' specification, these specific features provide a branched network, much like a leaf or a lung, which provides a novel matrix flow field.

CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims and issuance of a patent containing these claims in due course. If the Examiner believes there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, or if there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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